

SHORT FORMAT

The short format was devised for situations in which detailed information was unnecessary or unavailable. It is a one- or two-page distillation of the outline format, and is as follows:

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NAME OF STRUCTURE
(Secondary Name)

HABS No. XX-###

Location: (street, city, county, state)

Significance: (one sentence)

Description: (physical characteristics of the building, past and present)

History: (building date, architect, builder, owners, uses, etc.)

Sources: (citations of sources used)

Historian: (name, affiliation, and date documentation prepared)

In the example that follows, HABS No. AK-39-A, the Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church, was documented with a HABS outline-format report. The short format was selected for this secondary structure.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOLY ASCENSION RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH BISHOP'S HOUSE

HABS No. AK-39-B

Location: Between Broadway and Bayview avenues, Unalaska, Alaska.

Significance: Predating the present church building, the rectory was constructed in 1882 as part of a campaign to improve the housing of Russian Orthodox priests. Bishop Nestor, who initiated the campaign, envisioned this as his base in the western part of his large diocese; he lived in San Francisco.

Description: Located about 150' west of the church, the Bishop's House is a two-story wood-framed building with novelty siding. The two-story central section has a gable roof and hexagonal projecting bays on both front and rear; the bays have pyramidal roofs. On the sides, lower one-story wings have hip roofs. All roofs are covered with wood shingles, and there is a central chimney. The house is ornamented with hoodmolds over the doors and brackets at the cornice.

History: The Bishop's House was constructed by the Alaska Commercial Company in 1882, according to designs by Mooser and Pissis, San Francisco architects commissioned by Bishop Nestor. The original plans show a hipped roof on the central section and rectangular projecting bays in the front and rear; the one-story hip-roofed wings are the same as at present. Entrance was to be through the westernmost bay, but the house was built with a center entrance.

Fr. Nicholas Rysev found the house uninhabitable, as it was too expensive to heat (letter of November 1892, Alaskan Russian Church Archives). The school building, constructed in 1882 to the west, was joined to the bishop's house in about 1907. By that time, a number of shed additions had been made on the east side of the house. The house was damaged in the 1960 fire that destroyed the school, and not repaired until restoration work began in 1976. Work on the interior is not yet completed.

Sources: Barbara Smith, "National Register nomination: Holy Ascension Orthodox Church," National Park Service, 1984. The building has been declared a National Historic Landmark and the complete nomination is located in the History Division, National Park Service. The nomination includes copies of the original architectural drawings of the house, as well as historic photographs.

Alaskan Russian Church Archives, Reel 67, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.